

# Calendar No. 1320

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SENATE

{ REPORT  
{ No. 1281

AMENDING THE ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE AWARD OF MEDALS OF HONOR, DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDALS, AND NAVY CROSSES, SO AS TO CHANGE THE CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD OF MEDALS

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APRIL 28 (legislative day, MARCH 30), 1942.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. WALSH, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 2456]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2456) to amend the act approved February 4, 1919 (40 Stat. 1056), entitled "An act to provide for the award of Medals of Honor, Distinguished Service Medals, and Navy Crosses, and for other purposes," so as to change the conditions for the award of medals, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment, and recommend that the bill, as amended, do pass.

Amend the bill as follows:

Page 3, line 7, strike out the words, "while in the naval service" and substitute in lieu thereof the words, "while serving in any capacity with the Navy."

The purpose of the bill is to change the conditions for the award of Medals of Honor, Distinguished Service Medals, and Navy Crosses.

### SECTION 1

Section 1407, Revised Statutes (34 U. S. C., 351), authorized a medal of honor for enlisted men distinguishing themselves by gallantry in action. The act approved March 3, 1915 (38 Stat. 931), authorized a medal of honor for officers distinguishing themselves in battle or by displaying extraordinary heroism in the line of their profession, and the act approved February 4, 1919 (40 Stat. 1056), authorized a medal of honor to be presented in the name of Congress to any person who, while in the naval service of the United States, shall, in action involving actual conflict with the enemy, distinguish

himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty and without detriment to the mission of his command or the command to which attached.

Section 1 of the bill does not change the conditions already prescribed for the award of the Medal of Honor. However, this section provides that the design of the medal shall be the same as that adopted pursuant to the act approved December 21, 1861 (12 Stat. 330). This is the medal known as the Old Medal of Honor and is distinguished from the New Medal of Honor in that the latter bears the date 1917-18.

#### SECTION 2

This section changes the conditions of the act approved February 4, 1919, for the award of the Navy Cross from "any person who, while in the naval service of the United States" distinguishes himself "by extraordinary heroism or distinguished service in the line of his profession" to "any person who, while serving in any capacity with the naval service of the United States, distinguishes himself by extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy." After the enactment of this bill in order to earn the Navy Cross, the recipient must have distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism in actual military operations against an armed enemy.

#### SECTION 3

This section, providing for the award of the Distinguished-Service Medal, does not change the conditions prescribed for the award of this medal by the act of February 4, 1919; i. e. "distinguish himself by exceptionally meritorious service to the Government in a duty of great responsibility."

#### SECTION 4

This section authorizes the adoption of a new medal to be called the Silver Star Medal for award to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy of the United States, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity in action, such gallantry and service not being sufficient to justify the award of a medal of honor or a Navy Cross.

#### SECTION 5

This section retains the provisions of the act of February 4, 1919, for additional pay at the rate of \$2 per month for recipients of any of the foregoing medals.

#### SECTION 6

This section provides that no more than one of the foregoing medals shall be issued to any one person; but for each succeeding deed or service sufficient to justify the awarding of another of these medals, the President may award a suitable bar, emblem, or insignia to be worn with the medal.

Sections 7, 8, 9, and 10 relate to certain administrative details incident to the awards of the foregoing medals and are in substance identical with those set forth in the act of February 4, 1919.

## THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

The committee amended the bill to provide that the Silver Star Medal may be awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Navy, distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity in action. The amendment would permit members of the Army and civilians temporarily serving under a naval command to receive this award.

It is considered by the Navy Department that the present scope of the decorations as now authorized for award is inadequate to provide the most suitable recognition for the various degrees of commendable action and service.

The cost of the bill, if enacted into law, is estimated at approximately \$6,600.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Navy Department and has been cleared by the Bureau of the Budget.



